

shewn from 10 to 12 o'clock. Master Richards was not however to be dissuaded from his benevolent intention. He went up to the boys, and asked them, how they could be so cruel as to make sport of hurting a poor innocent creature. Do you not think, added he, that it would give *you* pain to be fixed to the ground, and thrown at with great cudgels? They said, they only did like other boys and men. Like other *naughty* boys and men, answered master Richards, but it is no reason for your doing wrong, that others do so too. Many people rob, others commit murder, but is that a reason for you to be guilty of those crimes, and now I mention robbery, pray how did you get this poor animal? They held down their heads. Ah! says master Richards, I doubt you have been dishonest, you stole this

cock.

cock. Tell me the truth, and add the fault of a lie to thofe and cruelty. They owned to the cock from farmer Wilford then, says master Richards upon your going with me, and bring it back to him, and ask pardon; I will intreat of him to beat you for this time, on your promise to do so no more as I have spoiled what you *sport*, I will give you three pieces, and you may make yourselves some plaything that will give you as much diversion, without hurting any creature.

The young gentlemen had all patience; they told master Richards, he had better give them money, and they would catch the cock. No, answered master Richards, I cannot trust them, nor could I

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